recruitment of the persons belonging to the SC and ST, to the various categories of cabin crew in the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what are the yearwise details in this regard from 1980 to 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ JPATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of reserved vacancies carried forward in Indian Airlines in respect of Cabin Crew from the year 1980 upto 1988, are as follows:

Year	Air Hostess		Cabin Crew Flight Purser*	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
1980	2	4	7	2
1981	2	8	7	2
1982	2	4	6	4
1983	4	6	7	3
1984	4	6	7	3
1985	3	4	7	4
1986	6	7	7	5
1987	12	11	7	5
1988	17	14	7	5

Only one SC vacancy lapsed in 1981.

Flights cancelled/delayed by Indian Airlines

41. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the year-wise percentage of the flights cancelled and delayed, separately, of the total flights of the Indian Airlines from 1985-88; and

(b) whether any improvement has been made in the quality of food served by the Indian Airlines in 1988 on its domestic flights; if so, what arc the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL**):** (a) The year-wise percentage of Indian Airlines flights delayed and cancelled during 1985-88 are as follows:—

Yen	%age of total flights delayed	%age of total flights cancelled
1985	22.96	1.27
1986	23.07	1.70
1987	23.64	1.94
1988	34.38	3.26

(b) Yes, Sir. It is-the constant endeavour of Indian Airlines to improve' the quality of food served. The food is uplifted from reputed caterers, flight kitchens and also from more than one caterer to induce competition. In the recent past, Indian Airlines has maintained a rotation of their menus to ensure that fresh food is served. In 1988, Indian Airlines conducted a 'passenger Opinion Survey' to seek preferences for various food and beverage items and it was observed that what Indian Airlines was already serving was popular with the travelling public.

भटनी से वाराणसी तथा वाराणसी से इलाहाबाद की छोटी रेल लाइन को बड़ी रेल लाइन में परिवर्तित किया जाना

42. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भटनी से वाराणसी तथा वाराणकी से इलाहाबाद की छोटी रेल लाइन को बड़ी रेल लाइन में परिवर्तित करने में क्या कठिनाई है; और

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?